



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION VII
901 NORTH 5TH STREET
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66101

24 APR 2007

Honorable Magalie R. Salas, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE, Room 1A
Washington, DC 20426

Dear Secretary Salas:

Re: Rockies Express Western Phase Project, Construction and Operation for the Natural Gas Pipeline Facilities: Rockies Express (CP06-354-000), TransColorado (CP06-401-000) and Overthrust (CP06-423-000), CO, WY, NE, KS, MO and NM

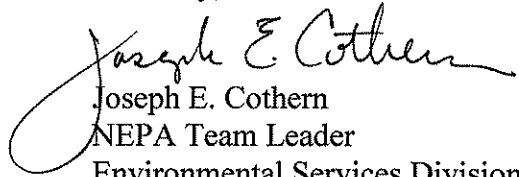
This letter provides the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) comments for the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the subject pipeline project. EPA Regions 6, 7 and 8 have reviewed this FEIS in accordance with its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act. The FEIS was assigned the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) number 20070106.

In reviewing the FEIS, EPA has determined that our previous concerns regarding air quality, horizontal directional drilling and hydrostatic test water availability have been adequately addressed. However, EPA would like to highlight two issues where we believe additional consideration should be given.

1. RE: FERC response F 3-2, EPA recommends that coordination on potential invasive species transfer via hydrostatic testing be expanded to include agencies responsible for fish and wildlife resources, and not solely those agencies that administer water allocation, or the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System.
2. RE: FERC response F 3-3, EPA understands that no chemicals will be added to the waters used for hydrostatic testing. To clarify the issue, EPA's previous comment on potential pollutants was specific to the existence of any chemicals or corrosion preventatives (grease, waxes...) that may have been applied to the pipe prior to installation. EPA recommends that pipe suppliers and distributors be queried in order to determine whether or not chemical compounds of potential discharge concern were applied to internal pipe surfaces.

Thank you for considering our concerns and comments on the DEIS. EPA would appreciate receiving a copy of the Record of Decision.

Sincerely,


Joseph E. Cothurn
NEPA Team Leader
Environmental Services Division

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